



Compassionate Reassignments



What is a Compassionate Reassignment?

A compassionate reassignment is a change of assignment to an installation in a different geographical area. It can be granted only for serious personal problems, and it must be requested by the soldier.

What Are Serious Personal Problems?

It's difficult to give an exact definition of "personal problems", but, as a general matter, the personal problems must be serious enough that the soldier's physical presence is required for an extended period of time – that is, they are serious enough that they can not be resolved through the use of leave, letters, powers of attorney, or the help of family members or friends. Also, compassionate reassignments normally will not be granted because of (for instance) family separation due to military service, sole parenthood, home-ownership, parents-in-law, or financial trouble.

There are also additional guidelines depending on whether the personal problems are temporary or more permanent. If the problem is temporary – expected to be resolved within one year – it must not have existed or been foreseen at the time of the latest entry on active duty. If the problem is more permanent – expected not to be resolved in one year – the soldier must be requesting his first PCS in the fiscal year (he must not have already PCSed once) and there must be a spot for the soldier (grade and PMOS) at the new location.

Examples of temporary personal problems that normally warrant compassionate reassignments include terminal illnesses of family members or recent severe psychotic episodes of a spouse or child. Examples of more permanent personal problems that normally warrant compassionate reassignments include a recent death of a family member when extenuating circumstances exist or serious chronic health problems.

How Do I Request a Compassionate Reassignment?

Submit a DA Form 3739, "Application for Compassionate Actions", to your S-1 shop, along with a personal statement explaining the reason you're requesting the reassignment (the personal problems). You'll also need to attach any supporting documents. For instance, if the reason for requesting the reassignment is medical, you should attach a statement from the doctor (a) giving the diagnosis and prognosis of the illness and (b) explaining how your presence might help. As a general rule, include whatever supporting evidence you think might help you make your case. In addition to medical or legal statements this might also include statements from a chaplain, social service agencies, police, a psychologist, or the Red Cross. Legal Assistance can help you with all of this.

What If I Already Have Orders to My Next Duty Station, and I Need to Leave Korea Early?

You might qualify for another type of compassionate action known as a curtailment (shortening) of your OCONUS tour. The situations that warrant a Soldier receiving a curtailment are very limited and rare, so be sure to talk to a legal assistance attorney to determine if a curtailment is an option instead of, or in addition to, a compassionate reassignment. For more information on curtailments, you can read the Army Regulation 614-30, *Overseas Service*, chapter 5.

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